GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5952
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2001
RULE FOR SCREENING NEWS DOCUMENTARY IN CINEMA HOUSES
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any rules for compulsory screening of news documentary in cinema houses:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some cinema houses are flouting these rules;

(d) if so, the details thereof

(e) whether the Government have any provision for monitoring the regular screening of news documentaries in cinema houses;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken against the cinema houses for violation such rules?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BORADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) & (b) Section 12 (4) of the Cinematograph Act, 1952. inter alia empowers the Central Government toissue directions to the Union Territory Administrations to ensure the compulsory exhibition of news documentary films in the cinema theatres.

Since licensing of Cinema theatres is a State subject, various State Governments/Union territory Administrations have made their own Cinema (Regulations)Actsfor the compulsory exhibition of approved films, including documentary films, in the cinema theatres as a pre-condition for the purpose of grant of license to the cinema theatres.

(c) & (d) As per the records available in the Films Division, 62 cinema houses in West Bengal are notscreening the approved films and have filed a Writ Petition in the High Court of Kolkata on the plea thatthe documentary films/news magazines produced by the Films Division are not approved by the FilmAdvisory Board of West Bengal and notified in the State gazette.A list of these 62 cinema theatres is annexed. The matter is subjudice.

(e), (f) & (g) Cinema being a State subject, enforcement of the legal requirement fall within the purview ofthe State Government.As and when complaints in this regard are received, these are forwarded to the concerned licensing authorities i.e. District Magistrate or the Commissioner of Police of the respective region/State for taking necessary action against the defaulting theatres.